

Approved 11/20/14

**TOWN OF WELLESLEY
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
November 6, 2014, 7:30 PM
NRC Office, Town Hall**

Attending: Stephen Murphy, Vice Chair, Joan Gaughan, Lise Olney, Raina McManus,
Brandon Schmitt, Janet Hartke Bowser

Absent: Heidi Gross, Chair

Guests: David Murphy, Board of Selectmen Liaison to the NRC, Lucy Kapples, Advisory
Committee Liaison to the NRC

Public Voice

No one attending the meeting spoke at Public Voice.

**Review and Approval Re: NRC's FY16 and Five-Year Capital Budget Request to Advisory
Committee**

Documents Reviewed for this Discussion:

- Draft FY16 – FY20 Capital Budget Request and Worksheets as prepared by Ms. Bowser and Mr. Schmitt.

Ms. Bowser and Mr. Schmitt reviewed with the NRC the draft FY16 and 5-Year Capital Budget Request and accompanying worksheets. The FY16 request includes the following projects: \$40,000 for the NRC/DPW Annual Tree Planting Program; \$20,000 for the first phase of a comprehensive pond management plan (an additional \$80,000 will be requested in FY17 for the second phase of the plan) for the following NRC ponds - Longfellow Pond, Town Hall Duck Pond, Reeds Pond, Abbotts Pond, Rockridge Pond, Farm Station Pond and the Morses Pond Ice House Pond. Ms. Bowser noted that Morses Pond has its own comprehensive management plan and that State Street Pond (aka as the Skating Pond) will be dredged this coming winter as part of the Fuller Brook Park Restoration Project, so neither of these ponds are included in the capital request; \$5,500 for maintenance of the Hunnewell Athletic Field porous pavement; and \$5,000 for the Trails Committee capital projects. Ms. Kapples, the NRC's liaison to the Advisory Committee, requested that the NRC create a chart showing the history of past pond dredging and restoration work for review when the NRC meets with the Advisory Committee to discuss its capital requests. The NRC also reviewed its capital carry-over funds and briefly discussed proposed uses.

Ms. McManus stated that she has been working with Mr. Quinn at the DPW to determine if the existing lights at the Hunnewell Athletic Field tennis courts and multi-purpose field can be retrofitted with better light shields to reduce off-site light spillage. Mr. Murphy recommended that the NRC add \$5,000 for this item in the FY16 capital budget request as a place holder, noting that there is a critical need for off-site light spillage mitigation at this location with the understanding that an initial assessment is needed before going forward. Ms. McManus stated that she will follow-up with Mr. Quinn to get a firm cost estimate for this effort. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 4-0 to add this project to the NRC's FY16 Capital Budget Request with a cost of \$5,000.**

After further discussion, a motion was made and seconded, and the NRC voted 4-0 to approve the NRC's FY16 and 5-Year Capital Budget Request.

Ms. Gaughan inquired if parking bumpers could be installed at the State Street parking lot to protect the abutting pedestrian trail along the brook and requested that staff follow-up with the DPW to determine if there are other options, such as narrow posts, that could be installed without interfering with snow removal in the parking lot. Ms. Gaughan stated that there are parking bumpers at the Hunnewell Field tennis court parking lot, so there shouldn't be an issue in adding them at the State Street parking lot.

Review/Approval of Morses Pond Comprehensive Management Program FY16-FY20 Five-Year Capital Plan

The NRC reviewed and discussed the Morses Pond Comprehensive Management Program's 5-Year Capital Plan and capital carry-over funds and potential uses. **After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 4-0 to approve the Morses Pond Five-Year Capital Budget Request.**

New Business/Continuing Business/Liaison Reports

Update on October Special Town Meeting Actions including 900 Worcester St. Property

Mr. Murphy, the NRC's liaison from the Board of Selectmen, stated that the Town anticipates closing on this property by November 29, 2014. Ms. Gaughan reported that the 900 Worcester Street Committee continues to meet to further develop possible site uses and a public/private partnership to develop and run the hockey rink and the swimming pool facilities. The NRC members were in agreement that Ms. Gaughan will continue to serve as the NRC's liaison to the Committee.

Public Shade Tree Removal and Replacement Program

The NRC discussed the current NRC/DPW public shade tree removal and replacement policy that requires that new trees be planted by the Town on private property behind the Town's Right-of-Way. Some members voiced concerns about the Town's ability to protect these trees and requested that the NRC further discuss this matter at a future meeting.

Update on NRC Social Media and Newsletter Public Outreach and Communication Efforts

The NRC discussed its social media and newsletter public outreach and communication efforts. Ms. Olney felt that the NRC needs to further discuss this topic to determine what the expectations are for these efforts and discuss what staffing resources are needed as well as how to integrate this information with the NRC's website. Stephen Murphy mentioned the potential use of high school or college interns to assist with these efforts.

Update on Trails Committee

Ms. Gaughan updated the NRC on the recent activities of the Trails Committee and stated that four members of the Committee including herself met recently with the Town Government Study Committee.

Update on Outdoor Lighting and Noise Study Committee

Ms. McManus stated that the results of the Study Group's findings will be compiled and presented to the Planning Board at an upcoming meeting for possible zoning bylaw changes.

Update on Wellesley College North 40 Property and Potential Acquisition by the Town

Mr. Murphy, the NRC's liaison from the Board of Selectmen, briefly updated the NRC on the status of the North 40 property. He stated that the Town is still in the running to acquire the property and is in the final group of potential bidders. The college is expected to evaluate all bids by end of November. The Selectmen would call a Special Town Meeting in January 2015 if the Town's bid is accepted followed by a debt exclusion vote to coincide with the Town's March Elections. Mr. Murphy stated that \$150,000 was appropriated at the recent Special Town Meeting for legal and consulting fees related to the assessment and possible remediation of the former landfill on the site that had been operated by the Town.

Update on NRC's Initiative to Reduce Single Use Plastics

Ms. Olney and Ms. McManus stated that they are planning to meet with Roche Brothers and Whole Foods to discuss single plastic use issues and that Matthew Hornung from the High School Green team is also working on this issue. Ms. Olney stated that she and Ms. McManus will continue to gather information from other Towns that have or are considering plastic bans and will keep the NRC updated on their progress.

Director's Report

Update Re: Fuller Brook Park Preservation Project - Construction Schedule

Ms. Bowser provided a brief update on the status of the project and stated that construction work is currently focused on the dredging and restoration of Caroline Brook and the installation of the two bioentention areas in the segment of the park between Abbott and Caroline Street.

Update on 5 Kirkland Circle Tree Fine Appeal

Ms. Bowser stated that the owner of this property has requested time on an upcoming NRC agenda to discuss/appeal the NRC's October 2, 2014 decision to issue a \$3,550 fine regarding the owner's construction activity that was determined to substantially damage the root zone of a 22" d.b.h. Black Locust Public Shade Tree in the front of the property. The NRC had concluded that the owner's construction activity around this tree had caused significant soil disturbance and compaction and has destroyed over 50% of the root zone and drastically compromised the tree rooting structure, creating a hazard to the public way. The NRC concluded that this damage will also cause significant die back and ultimate death of this tree in the next few years. The NRC agreed to place this item on an upcoming meeting agenda for further discussion.

Review and Approval of October 2, 2014 and October 21, 2014 NRC Meeting Minutes

After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 4-0 to approve the October 2, 2014 Meeting Minutes as revised.

After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 4-0 to approve the October 21, 2014 Meeting Minutes as revised.

Adjournment

After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Hartke Bowser

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